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COLE, RAYWID & BRAVERMAN, L.L.P.

JAMES F IRELAND 202828-9846 JIRELAND@CRBLAW COM ATTORNEYS AT LAW

ISIS PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N W , SUITE 200

WASHINGTON, D C 20006-3458

TELEPHONE (202) 659-9750

RECEIVED

LOS ANGELES OFFICE 2381 ROSECRANS AVENUE SUITE IIO EL SEGUNDO CALIFORNIA 90245 4290

TELEPHONE (310) 6437999 FAX (310) 5437997

FAX (202) 452-0067 WWW CRBLAW COM

October 15,2002

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PROPERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

VIA COURIER

Marlene H. Dortch Office of the Secretary Federal Communications Commission 236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE Suite 110 Washington, DC 20002

Re: CC Docket No. 94-102; Seventh Quarterly Report of Alpine PCS, Inc. and RFB Cellular, Inc. on TTY-Digital Deployment

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of Alpine PCS, Inc. ("Alpine") and RFB Cellular, Inc. ("RFB"), I am submitting this seventh quarterly report on the implementation of TTY access to digital wireless systems.

In June of 2002 Alpine and RFB filed a joint request for a limited waiver from the deadline to comply with the Commission's TTY requirements.' **As** explained in that request, Alpine (which operates in the California, Michigan and Hyannis, Massachusetts markets) and RFB (which operates in the Michigan markets) are each confronting unique problems that preclude compliance with these requirements at this time.

In regards to the California markets, Alpine has an ongoing commercial dispute with Lucent Technologies, its equipment vendor for Alpine's California systems. Initially, Alpine selected Lucent primarily on the basis of an agreement that Lucent would finance portions of Alpine's equipment purchases, However, Lucent reneged on its financing agreement, and the parties have been unable to resolve the ensuing business and financial disagreements. As a result of these disagreements, Lucent has been unwilling to provide hardware or software to Alpine, including the upgrades required for transmission of calls made from TTY devices.

List ABCDE

¹ See Alpine PCS and RFB Cellular Request for Limited Waiver of the Commission Requirements Under 47 C.F.R. § 20.18(c), CC Docket No. 94-102, filed on June 26,2002.

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In the interest of resolving this matter Alpine and Lucent have been in discussions for more than a year. Recently, the parties have made some progress in resolving this dispute, and serious negotiations between Alpine and Lucent have been ongoing for about two months. However it is not clear as to when an agreement will he reached. Because of uncertainty as to when negotiations will he completed and Alpine's dependence upon Lucent to assist in implementing needed upgrades, Alpine maintains its request to the Commission for a one-year waiver of the deadline so that the parties can continue to work to resolve the dispute and implement the upgrade.

In the Michigan and Hyannis markets, Alpine and RFB share a switch, manufactured by Motorola. Although Alpine and RFB had reported in previous quarterly reports that they probably would he able to meet the June 30,2002 deadline, both Alpine and RFB recently concluded that financial difficulties would preclude their compliance with the deadline. Despite these financial difficulties Alpine and RFB have continued to diligently prepare their Michigan and Hyannis networks to be able to meet the CALEA, E911, TTY and number pooling/portability mandates. In the past six months, they have installed Motorola's IS-41 capability (at a cost exceeding \$1.6 million) to support these mandates. However, they still will need additional hardware and software at an estimated cost of more than \$4 million in order to comply with the Commission's numerous technical requirements. In the case of TTY capability, Alpine and Motorola have been negotiating extended payment terms that would allow Alpine and RFB to move forward with the required upgrades for TTY. However, as of this date, no agreement has been reached and thus Alpine and RFB maintain their request for a one-year waiver of the deadline so that the parties can come to a financial agreement and implement the upgrade.

As explained more fully in their recent waiver request, Alpine and RFB have been adversely affected by the recent economic downturn and resulting collapse of financial markets. They have also experienced a drastic decline in roaming revenues. Due to this financial situation, and the high cost of the equipment required to meet the Commission's mandates, Alpine and RFB explained to the Commission that they do not have sufficient financial resources at this time to acquire the additional upgrades necessary to meet the recent June 30,2002 deadline.

Due to these circumstances, Alpine and RFB have requested a one-year waiver of the deadline to comply with the TTY requirements. Alpine and RFB believe that a one-year waiver from the June 30,2002 deadline will allow both entities to continue to purchase upgrades as they are able. As explained in the waiver request, Alpine and RFB remain committed to providing TTY capabilities to the public and intend to continue to use their best efforts to come into compliance with the TTY requirements as expeditiously as possible.

Please contact the undersigned if you require any additional information

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Sincerely,

James F. Ireland

cc: Arthur L. Prest

By Hand Delivery:

Qualex International – Portals II – **Room CY-B402**Kris Monteith, Chief, Policy Division, Wireless Telecommunications – **Room 5**C-739
Chief, Disabilities Rights Office, Consumer Information Bureau

By E-Mail:

mlittell@fcc.gov